

Da Vinci Arts Middle School

2017-2018

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Drama Department Website: <http://dramaatdavinci.weebly.com>

Drama

Welcome to drama! I am overjoyed that you will be joining this adventure into the world of drama. Drama is an art form that allows students of all backgrounds to explore their own stories and the stories of others. Drama asks us to examine our own nature, our society, and our past. In this art form students learn to support one another, strengthen their confidence, and question life and human nature. Here we bring together critical analysis, reading, action, reflection and imagination.

The mission of the drama department at da Vinci is to provide students with a quality education in the world of theatre and storytelling. The goal is to create an environment in which each student feels safe, supported, and encouraged to take artistic risks. In order to achieve this, there are certain expectations that must be met by each student.

Student Responsibilities:

- Be on time: This means in class seated with all supplies ready at the start of class.
- Dress for movement: All students should wear clothes that will allow them the ability to move freely and comfortably without any restrictions.
- Full participation: Full focus and effort are required at all times. This includes joining activities and observing others work.
- Be supportive: Be polite and respectful to classmates, teachers, and guests.

Teacher responsibilities:

- Be respectful to students.
- Work to challenge all students at appropriate levels.
- Give time to students who need additional help.
- Be on time and participate fully in teaching.

Course Description:

The drama class builds on the foundation of voice and speech, physical awareness, theatre terminology, and text analysis. In this class, students will be challenged with work that requires

high end thinking, problem solving, and that puts the skills of the performer to the test. Students will create, present, and perform both scripted and original works. Students will also conceptualize technical elements of staging. The class will look to literature and history and will be aligned with the state art benchmarks and national standards for theatre education.

Grading Policy/ Philosophy:

Students will receive a bi-weekly professionalism grade which is based on daily participation, readiness, and respect of their work and that of the others in class. This grading policy is outlined on the drama website. Students will also be assessed in knowledge of theatre terminology as well as performance skills. All grades will be entered throughout the course on Synergy.

Homework:

Students will need to study lines at home. There will be periodic reading and writing assignments. All assignments will be posted to synergy.

Title I learners:

The art of drama demands many different explorations allowing learning to deepen more quickly as several different learning styles and facets are addressed. Through physicalizing, observing, and reflecting in a supportive environment, language acquisition, contextual understanding and expression are heightened.

Special Education Learners:

The art of drama fosters respect for others as well as oneself. It allows all learners to see the unique gifts that they possess and to celebrate them. With the use of primary sources, multi-media presentations, and participation, students are engaged in this cross-curricular art form. With positive participation, self-esteem is bolstered which enhances academic learning.

TAG Students:

Talented and gifted students are encouraged to go deeper into research, expand their writing, and challenge themselves in performance. The art of drama provides flexibility in process and content. Talented and gifted students are encouraged and expected to assume leadership roles and responsibilities in group work. These students are also provided with and challenged by more historical and primary source materials to deepen understanding and provide more academic growth.

Shows and Classes 2017 - 2018

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet!

We are partnering with Portland Playhouse to do a Fall Festival of Shakespeare! There will be three common classes with other schools throughout the rehearsal process, and our closing night will be the kick off to the fall festival of Shakespeare where all participating schools will present their shows at the Winningstad Theatre!

Auditions :

3:30-5:30pm Wednesday, September 5th-September 15th

Note: This process is unique in that all students who want to be a part of the show can and will! Once the audition process begins, students will come every day that they are able to, and through playing games and story exploration we will find where each member of the ensemble fits. We will work around schedules.

Rehearsals:

Monday-Friday 3:30-5:30pm

Note: As stated above, we will work around conflicts. Even if you are only available once a week, you can still be a part of the production! We just ask that you make yourself available for all rehearsals the two weeks prior to opening.

Common Classes:

September 20th, 4:00-6:00pm, @ ACMA

October 18th, 4:00-6:00pm, @ da Vinci

November 8th, 4:00-6:00pm, @ Franklin High School

Note: This is a place for parent volunteers! We will need people to help with transporting students to the other schools. If you think you may be available to drive on these days, please contact Nicole Accuardi via e-mail so that she can get you pertinent paperwork.

Mandatory Tech rehearsal:

November 8th, 10am-3pm TECH

November 14th, 8.45-3.15 all day pull-out Dress Rehearsal and Teaser

Note: This is a place for parent volunteers! We will need backstage supervision as well as snack helpers.

Performances:

November 15th, actors and tech called at 5:30pm, show starts at 7:00pm

November 16th, actors and tech called at 5:30pm, show starts at 7:00pm

November 17th, FALL FESTIVAL OF SHAKESPEARE AT THE WINNINGSTAD THEATRE

November 18th, actors and tech called at 12:30pm, show starts at 2:00pm

November 18th, actors and tech called at 5:30pm, show starts at 7:00pm

NOTE: There will be a lab fee to help with the cost of set material and costuming. This fee is \$25 and will be waived for students on free or reduced price lunch plans. If anyone can afford to donate more to sponsor those who can't afford this cost at this time, that would be much

appreciated. We are committed to producing high quality theatre, and that can become expensive! Your support means a lot. You can make payments online using school pay on the da Vinci School Website.

Once Upon a Mattress

Auditions:

3:30-5:30 December 4-14th

Note: This is a large musical and so we will be looking for actors who sing, singers who act, dancers who act, dancers who sing... ect. Music will be made available to take to a pianist and prepare. It is the responsibility of the actor to prepare for the audition. It is a good idea to work a few times at least with an accompanist before coming into audition so that the audition is a strong example of your abilities. This show is going to be a blast, we hope to see you at the auditions!

Rehearsals begin:

January 3rd and will be Monday through Friday from 3:30-5:30pm

Tech Pullout: Wednesday March 7th, 8:30-3:15

Mandatory Tech Rehearsal:

Saturday, March 3th, 11am-6pm

Shows dates:

March 8th @ 7:00pm

March 9th @ 7:00pm

March 10th @ 2:00pm

March 15th @ 7:00pm

March 16th @7:00pm

March 17th @ 2:00pm

Note:

There will be a lab fee to help with the cost of set material and costuming. This fee is \$25 and will be waived for students on free or reduced price lunch plans. If anyone can afford to donate more to sponsor those who can't afford this cost at this time, that would be much appreciated. We are committed to producing high quality theatre, and that can become expensive! Your support means a lot. You can make payments online using school pay on the da Vinci School Website.

Master Drama Class

Google Classroom Code: pyklh

In this class, students will continue to build on the skills that have been developing in the year long drama classes. This class is an 8th grade only auditioned class. This year we will focus on immersive theatre. We will look at new ways to stage plays, and we will explore the agency of the audience and performer. Each student in this class will have the opportunity to work with special guest artists.

Show dates:

February 15th @ 7:00pm

February 16th @ 7:00pm

Intermediate

Google Classroom Code Period 3: wey63oh

Google Classroom Code Period 4: 30ipfh

Advanced Drama Class

Google Classroom Code: 2fexsg

In this class we will focus on improv ensemble games, elements of theatre, fundamentals of voice and speech, and the basis of scene work.

In the first quarter, each student will act in and help stage a ten minute play from Oregon Children's Theatre's Young Playwrights for Change Competition. Last year some parents attended, but this will be an in class performance.

We will be partnering, once again, with Oregon Children's Theatre to have all students in year- long drama write their own 10 minute play to submit in the competition. Last year we had five finalists from da Vinci!

Explorer Drama (Term Drama)

Google Classroom Code Term 1: w0i6x3b

Google Classroom Code Term 2: 196aohw

Google Classroom Code Term 3: s616uc

Google Classroom Code Term 4: boawzo

In this class, students will be introduced to improv, scene work, and the elements of theatre. They will perform on a nearly weekly basis for their classmates in a fun and inviting manner.

Each student will act in and help stage and tech a ten minute play from Oregon Children's Theatre's Young Playwrights for Change Competition. Last year some parents attended, but this will be an in class performance.

Professionalism Grading:

Drama is a group activity. Most of the projects we will be working on in this class require the active participation and effort of every group member. When any member of the ensemble is distracted or not participating, the whole group feels the effect. Daily professionalism grades are averaged every other week and entered into Synergy every other Friday.

Each student begins the class with the full 4 professionalism points. If the student is ready, respectful, participating, and present they will keep all 4 daily professionalism points. Everyone has off days or forgetful days, which is why professionalism is averaged over two week's worth of time. When the student exhibits any of these behaviors in class, they will get a gentle reminder, and points will only be lost if the student continues to behave in an unprofessional manner. Here is a short table showing how you can lose professionalism points. There is a more detailed explanation of each category below.

Unprofessional activity	# of points lost
Low participation	2
No participation	4
Not dressed to participate	2
Missing materials	2
Tardy	1
Disrespect	1-4

Participation:

Nothing harms a drama ensemble like low participation or refusing to participate. If you are having a really rough day and absolutely need to not be in the drama room, you can come talk to me and we will figure out a place where you can have some recovery time.

Low participation will result in the loss of 2 professionalism points. Some examples of low participation are: Being distracted by your phone in class, missing cues in performance because you were talking to a friend, curling up on the couch and saying you're too tired to play, and participating in an activity incorrectly on purpose.

No participation will result in the loss of all 4 daily professionalism points. Some examples of no participation are: Refusing to participate in an activity and drawing/reading/working on another class's homework during a discussion/game/performance.

Preparedness:

Preparedness is how ready you are to participate on any given day. As an actor, it is important to be prepared and ready when you come to rehearsal, so that you are not holding the ensemble back. Preparedness points can be lost in two ways.

If you are dressed in a way that makes it difficult or impossible for you to participate, you will lose 2 points. We do have clothing bins in the classroom for costumes, and if you need to quickly change into something that you are free to move easily in, you are welcome to and will not lose any points. Points will only be lost if you refuse to participate in an activity based off of your clothing choices. If you are wearing high heels or flip flops in class, you must remove them and place them with your binder, as they can be a safety hazard during active games. Gum is also a safety hazard, and must be spit out into the trash can at the beginning of class.

If you do not have your materials for the day, you will lose 2 points. It's very difficult for a group to rehearse if one member forgets their script every single day. I understand that everyone forgets and loses things sometimes, and we will have loaner scripts for every project available in the classroom. Points for missing materials will be taken away only if forgetting important materials is a chronic problem (3 or more times per week).

Respect:

Respect is at the heart of every healthy ensemble. If a member of the ensemble feels disrespected, they will withdraw from the ensemble and we will lose their valuable voice and participation. We want our ensemble to be a community and a safe space for all of its members. Respect looks like: Actively listening to your classmates during discussions, paying attention when others are performing, listening during directions, and keeping comments and feedback constructive or positive.

If you are behaving in a way that is disrespectful and damaging to the ensemble, I will come talk to you and we will see if we can figure out a plan going forward to help you be your best self. Everyone has days where they get distracted, or say something mean without thinking about it. You will only lose professionalism points for respect if being respectful in class is a constant struggle for you. The amount of points lost also depends on how disrespectful you were being to the ensemble, and we will discuss it when we have our conversation.

Being tardy on a regular basis will lose you 1 professionalism point. Missing the beginning of class often means missing part of warm-up, or missing important information for class that day. It is disrespectful to the ensemble and to the teacher.

Overall:

In this class, strive to become young artists. This means I will treat you like young artists, and that I expect you to treat each other, the work, myself, and any other guests in class like you are young professionals. Bring your best self to class and throw yourself into the joy of creating theatre and ensemble, and professionalism will come naturally. We are all perfect as we are, and we all have room for improvement.